

HOUSE RESOLUTION 186
By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor Joe Cotten upon the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals into the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who, "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during, "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2006 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes trainer Joe Cotten, who reached the pinnacle of his profession by winning the 2005 TWHNC World Grand Championship with the electrifying Main Power; and

WHEREAS, previously honored as Trainer of the Year in 2002, Joe Cotten has won every Tennessee Walking Horse performance championship, including the Three Year Old Stakes, the Four Year Old Stakes, and the 15.2 Stakes; he has twice taken home the Two Year Old Stakes and Mare and Gelding Stakes championships; and

WHEREAS, a native of Missouri, Joe Cotten grew up in Louisville, Kentucky; from an early age, he realized he wanted to be a Walking Horse trainer and pursued that career path soon after graduating from high school; and

WHEREAS Mr. Cotten was inspired to become a Walking Horse trainer by his grandfather and hero, Ferrell Coffman, who, in addition to having his own horses, was a huge Walking Horse fan; and

WHEREAS, by means of his induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Joe Cotten has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to his life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby acknowledge and applaud Joe Cotten, a gifted and dedicated trainer, on the occasion of his induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame and commend him for his sterling service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.